

Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI) Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2007
United Way
Wethersfield, CT
8:45a.m. – 10:00a.m.

In Attendance: Allison Case, DMHAS; Paloma Dee, NAMI; Andrea Duarte, DMHAS; Gustavo Guevara, DCF; Amy James, UCHC; DeAnna Lia, DCF; Barbara Sheldon, CT BHP; Judy Stonger, CT Clearinghouse; Bill Turek, SDE; Faith Vos Winkel, OCA

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Website

Andrea reported that the CYSPI website has been considerably updated since last meeting and asked committee to please review and submit any additions, corrections or recommendations to her. The training component and awareness campaign information still needs to be uploaded.

Gus suggested including last updated date on all pages.

Community Campaign

Andrea reported that the only confirmed money to support to date is \$18,540 from DMHAS. DeAnna is seeking financial approval from full board re DCF support. Per Scott Newgass and Bill Turek (at a meeting last week) SDE may also be able to contribute funds to the campaign. Gus believes that Dr. Quinonos at SDE may also have 21st Century grant dollars available. Once the final budget is determined, Andrea will seek an OPM waiver and prepare draft contracts for the CT Clearinghouse to administer the program. Andrea plans to write the contract with upon execution/no start date language.

Draft document (beginnings of RFP) were distributed yesterday via e-mail. One major change (discussed at prior meeting) is that awardees cannot fundraise for a non-profit and support yellow ribbon walks per an OPM rule so these activities have been removed.

Gus commented that as written the RFP precludes new groups from participating. Andrea will reword this section and give preference to pre-existing groups.

Judy expects the RFP will go out in early to mid May with a one-month turnaround time/due date. May is Mental Health Month and Suicide Prevention Week is in September, so potentially the RFP could be released twice. Bill supports a repeated announcement-application as this time of year is very hectic for school staff. Wheeler will utilize its listserv and established public notice procedures to get the word out. DeAnna commented that a one-month turnaround time was ambitious. Andrea asked the sub-committee for assistance in review of applications when appropriate.

Section by section the draft document was reviewed and discussed. The RFP will be revised to reflect discussion and consensus; general comments are captured below. Andrea also encouraged committee members to contact either herself or Judy with additional ideas.

- (Process) Data collection for grantees is minimal and requires them to itemize/inventory products and services delivered. Grantees will use paper MDS pads to collect estimates of participant demographics at meetings and events. Wheeler or DMHAS will enter data. (Andrea, Judy)
- We should limit the percent of the award that can be allocated to staffing (Judy, Bill)
- We should encourage in-kind contributions and collaborations, perhaps include instruction such as “if your plan includes work with a community partner, a letter of support will bolster your application” (Amy)
- We should expand eligibility criteria to include experience with youth, community stakeholders, partners, and systems of care (perhaps also DCF or JJC) and not limit to a specific age group or high school students only if possible (Barbara, DeAnna, Faith, Gus)
- We should try to capture some qualitative outcome measures or comments in the form of open-ended questions or lessons learned from grantees (Barbara, Paloma)
- We may want to consider bringing all grantees together following completion of projects to share and “cross-pollinate” (DeAnna)

Training Component

Andrea reported that Wheeler (Susan) will provide 6 trainings per year targeting 150 clinical staff in CTHSS and EMPS on suicidal assessment and risk. Andrea has been in touch with Tim Marshal who oversees the EMPS system statewide and plans to attend EMPS’s next monthly meeting (April 21) to present information on this training and the project.

Assist is also expected to reach about 150 individuals in a series of two-day trainings. Target population for these 6 sessions are DCF and JJC workers, foster care parents, school nurses...Faith commented that it is also important to reach DOC front-line staff. DeAnna would also like to see this training include both DPH and 211 to build on prior collaboration. Depending on participation this training may also be appropriate for the general public and it would be nice to be able to offer it.

A single Assist Training of Trainers (5-days) is also expected.

Hartford Pilot

Andrea reported that St. Francis is very close to hiring staff both locations and has submitted materials for translation that will require some editing.

High School Component

Andrea reported that the MOA between DMHAS and the CTHSS is in process and awaiting Commissioner Kirk's signature. Amy reported that UCHC's IRB has approved the study procedure and both the English and Spanish consent forms. The IRB still needs to approve use of the Polish translation but is expected to and this aspect of the project is in very good shape. Everything is in place to begin SOS training with students next year.

Screening for Mental Health (SMH)

Per Andrea, SMH is currently reviewing contract language which has been modified to remove technical assistance and support of recruitment efforts due to unanticipated collaboration with CTHSS.

Evaluation

ORC Macro Site Visit and Suicide Prevention Resource Center presentations are scheduled for Friday, April 27 at 10:30 here at the United Way from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Andrea is inviting the full board and all subcontractors.

CMHS

Andrea reported submission of the project's non-competitive continuation application due March 15. In addition, a new federal program officer has been assigned to oversee Connecticut's project, Louise Peloquin. Andrea plans to speak with Louise for the first time on Thursday (March 22).

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Handouts: DRAFT Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Education and Awareness Campaign description; 3-12-07 "Students To Walk For Suicide Prevention" article from The Daily Campus at UCONN; February 20 Meeting Minutes.